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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|--|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 09/445,131 | 03/06/2000 | JIANLEI XIE | RCA88670 | 9524 |
| 24498 | 7590 | 03/21/2006 | EXAMINER | |
| THOMSON LICENSING INC. PATENT OPERATIONS PO BOX 5312 PRINCETON, NJ 08543-5312 | | | HALEY, JOSEPH R | |
| | | | ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
| | | | 2627 | |

DATE MAILED: 03/21/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

| | | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|--|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. | Applicant(s) | |
| | 09/445,131 | XIE, JIANLEI | |
| | Examiner | Art Unit | |
| | Joseph Haley | 2653 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 January 2003.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1,3-6,8-11,15 and 19-23 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) 15 and 19-23 is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1, 3-6, 8-11 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

| | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1, 3, 5-6, 8, 10-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Oshima (US 6081785).

In regard to claim 1, Oshima teaches a recording medium having a first and second side comprising: respective program data on said first and said second sides of said medium (see column 2 line 40); and a first area on said first side and a second area on said second side of said medium (it is inherent that a two sided disc would have areas on both sides), each said area having disposed thereon distinctive laser encoded data representing information identifying said respective program data (column 3 lines 40-44), said first area and said second area being disposed between the center of the recording medium and an outer circumference (see fig 11 element 820), said respective program data being disposed outside the outer circumference (fig. 11 element 865), and said first area and said second area occupying non-overlapping positions with respect to each other, wherein said first and second areas are burst cutting areas (column 3

lines 40-44. Oshima teaches two layers where the first has a BCA flag and the second has the BCA information).

In regard to claim 3, Oshima teaches the medium of claim 1, wherein said first area has substantially the same inner and outer circumferences but a different angular position (fig. 4b elements 800 a and b, it is inherent that the BCA section for the two layers would be at the same distance from the center hence giving it the same circumference. It is also inherent that a flag would be mostly at a different angular position because a flag does not contain as much information).

In regard to claim 5, Oshima teaches the medium of claim 1, wherein said medium is a DVD disk (column 4 lines 20 and 21).

In regard to claim 6, see claim 1 rejection above.

In regard to claim 8, see claim 3 rejection above.

In regard to claim 10, see claim 5 rejection above.

In regard to claim 11, Oshima teaches the medium of claim 6 wherein said first and second layers are on the same side of said medium (fig. 4 elements 800a and 800b).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 4 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Oshima.

In regard to claims 4 and 9, Oshima teaches all the elements of claims 4 and 9 except wherein said first and second areas are positioned as concentric rings with respect to each other.

It would have been obvious to make these areas concentric rings because the BCA is inherently a ring around the circumference of the disk.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 15 and 19-23 are allowed.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments filed 1/30/06 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. On page 2, 1st paragraph lines 20-22 applicant argues the Oshima et al. does not teach "said first area and said second area occupying non-overlapping positions with respect to each other". The examiner maintains the rejection because for something to be overlapping the two objects would physically have to be in the same layer.

Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joseph Haley whose telephone number is 571-272-0574. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30am-5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, William Korzuch can be reached on 571-272-7589. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

jrh 


TAN DINH
PRIMARY EXAMINER

3/6/06